

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: House Bill 59

COMMITTEE: Environmental Matters

POSITION: Support

TITLE: State Board of Well Drillers - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill generally implements recommendations made in *Sunset Review: Evaluation of the State Board of Well Drillers* (December 2008) conducted by the Department of Legislative Services. This bill would extend the termination date of the State Board of Well Drillers by 10 years to July 1, 2021. In addition, the bill requires the Board, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, to submit a report by October 1, 2009 on its plans to increase fees and its ability to generate sufficient fee revenue to cover its expenditures and to track consumer complaints and related disciplinary actions within a database or spreadsheet.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: MDE supports House Bill 59. The State Board of Well Drillers consists of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary and the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board includes professional well drillers, members from MDE, DNR and the public. The Board is responsible for ensuring that only licensed well drillers drill wells, and further has the power to review the practices of individual licensed well drillers. Improper construction of wells can compromise the environment and public health. Licensure provides a means of holding well drillers responsible for the practices they employ. MDE believes that this Board has consistently made decisions that were in the best interest of the public that it serves and its activities have been directed solely to those issues that affect the welfare of the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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